large capital. Therefore I want that these central banks should be audited by the assistant registrars. By saying that 'Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion vested in the Registrar under section 17 of the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912', does the hon. the Minister want to mislead the public?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"Certainly not; it is enjoined on the Registrar by the Act and if he is worth his salt he must do his duty properly."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"As a matter of fact, it has not been done; and it does not produce the necessary confidence in the public."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"If any particular case is brought to my notice I shall make the necessary enquiry."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Is there any exception? As far as I know it is the rule."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"May I point out to the hon. the Minister that it is the inspector that does the whole duty and the assistant registrar simply supervises his work?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"The mechanical portion of the work is done by the inspector but the real portion of the work is done by responsible officers."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"Who is attending to the financial portion of the work?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—"The early portion of the work, that is comparing the ledger figures with the journal figures, that is all done by the inspecting staff; but the work of bringing up the balance, finding out the assets and liabilities and matters of that nature are all attended to by the assistant registrar."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"For the last eight years this has never been done?"

Co-operative societies in the Nilgiri district.

*270 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the number of co-operative societies in the Nilgiri district and of that number how many are specially for the hill tribes;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a large sum of 'overdues' from societies and whether it is a fact that the movement has been a failure as regards benefit to the hill tribes;

(c) whether it is a fact that the sympathy of the leaders of the community (hill tribes) was not enlisted and whether it is a fact that even the few who helped the movement in the beginning had subsequently to sever their connexion with the movement on account of the attitude of the officials of the department towards them;

(d) whether it is a fact that the organization of new societies was left entirely in the hands of the officials of the department;

(e) whether it is a fact that the powers of the co-operative unions and of the honorary assistant registrar were usurped by these officials;

(f) whether complaints of actual interference by the officials of the department with the work of non-officials have been received;

(g) whether it is a fact that on many occasions respectable gentlemen connected with the management of co-operative societies working in the town of Ootacamund complained to the Registrar personally about the unwarranted interference of these officials; and

(h) what steps Government have taken to see that non-official help in the working of these societies is not repelled?

A.—(a) There are 78 societies in the Nilgiris plateau. Of these, 68 are exclusively for the hill tribes.

(b) The outstandings are considerable. The progress of the co-operative movement amongst hill tribes is necessarily slow, but the movement has not failed to confer benefits.

(c) The Government have no reason to think so.

(d) Non-official agencies have not yet come forward to undertake the work of organizing new societies.

(e), (f) & (g) No.

(h) Does not arise.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that Rao Sahib Belli Gowder was Honorary Assistant Registrar for some time and when he was ill, advantage was taken by the department to entrust two unions in the Nilgiris, one to the village officer and the other to the village schoolmaster, as if public spirited men are not available there?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Our information is that enough public spirited men are not available."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Since Mr. Belli Gowder resigned, Mr. Ari Gowder took up the place; but he too had to sever his connexion on account of differences with the departmental staff."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" No; on account of his having taken up a contract."

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—" May I know by what process has the hon. the Minister discovered that there are not enough public spirited men there?"

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know how many co-operative societies are there for the Adi-Dravidas in the Nilgiris district?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I want notice. I have not got the figures just now."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Does the hon. the Minister know what is going on in his own department. . . . ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has been warned yesterday and I think he should have taken the warning seriously. Surely there are other ways of putting the question."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that Mr. Davis, M.L.C., was dissatisfied with the attitude of the departmental staff towards non-officials and did he complain about it to Mr. Gray?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" I have no information."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister kindly enquire ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" There was no complaint made to the Registrar."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" My information is that Mr. Davis actually complained to Mr. Gray."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" If there was a complaint it would have been sent to us."

Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" There was only one small specific complaint that I made; I have no general complaint whatever."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Was that complaint attended to ? "

Appointment of chairmen of municipalities, etc., as honorary assistant registrars of Co-operative Societies in Chingleput.

*271 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any presidents of taluk boards or chairmen of municipalities have been appointed as honorary assistant registrars in the Chingleput district ;

(*b*) if so, what are their names and when were they appointed ;

(*c*) whether Government propose to reappoint them when their terms expire ; and

(*d*) whether there are not in the Chingleput district persons who are directly connected with the co-operative movement and have the requisite leisure to perform the duties of honorary assistant registrars ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) M.R.Ry. Rai Sahib C. Aruliah Nayudu Garu.
,, C. Sambasiva Chettiyar Avargal.
,, K. Venugopala Mudaliyar Avargal.

Their present appointment dates from 1st August 1924.

(*c*) The question has not yet been considered.

(*d*) The Government understand that the three gentlemen mentioned are closely connected with the co-operative movement. They have no information as to other persons connected with the movement in Chingleput who have the requisite leisure to perform the duties of honorary assistant registrar.

Alleged malpractices among the panchayatdars of co-operative societies.

*272 *Q.*—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of certain malpractices among some panchayatdars of co-operative societies which endanger the investment of funds in them, such as themselves borrowing the bulk of the amount and continuing to be defaulters and granting to their own dependants loans on